

OKINAWA MARINE

JULY 8, 2011

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3rd MarDiv welcomes new leader

Gunnery Sgt. Cindy Fisher

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP COURTNEY — Brig. Gen. Frederick M. Padilla accepted command of 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, from Maj. Gen. Mark A. Brilakis during a ceremony in front of the division's headquarters on Camp Courtney June 30.

"This is a big day for the III Marine Expeditionary Force. It is a big day for the 3rd Marine Division," said Lt. Gen. Kenneth J. Glueck Jr., commanding general of III MEF and commander of Marine Corps Bases Japan, of the changing of leadership for the division.

"You've absolutely done a superb job here," Glueck said to Brilakis, the division's

outgoing commanding general. "III MEF is much better today because of the leadership you have provided."

Glueck reminded Padilla, the incoming commanding general, that the guidance of the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. James F. Amos, is clear.

"He wants us to be prepared for today's crisis with today's force, today," Glueck said, as he charged Padilla to have the division ready to respond when called.

"I am totally confident that with you in the lead, the 'Fighting 3rd' will continue to thrive and accomplish every mission assigned to it. Welcome to the team," said Glueck, in a letter to Padilla read during the ceremony.

SEE **DIVISION** PG 5

Maj. Gen. Mark A. Brilakis, left, outgoing commanding general of 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, passes the division's colors to Brig. Gen. Frederick M. Padilla, middle, the division's incoming commanding general, as Sgt. Maj. Bruce H. Cole, division sergeant major, salutes during a change of command ceremony at Camp Courtney June 30. Photo by Gunnery Sgt. Cindy Fisher

9th ESB Marines awarded, receive earned promotion

Cpl. Anthony Ward Jr.

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP HANSEN — A 9th Engineer Support Battalion Marine was combat meritoriously promoted at Camp Hansen June 29 for actions performed during a recent deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Staff Sgt. William E. Rietveld, a combat engineer with 9th ESB, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, who was combat meritoriously promoted to his current rank, attributes the promotion to the members of his team who were by his side daily, sweating and repelling the enemy.

"I couldn't be more proud of those two Marines," said Lt. Col. Scott A. Baldwin, 9th ESB's commanding officer, of Rietveld and Sgt. Cody T. Romreill, a 9th ESB Marine who received a Navy



Staff Sgt. William E. Rietveld, middle, a combat engineer with 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, has his chevrons pinned on by his wife, Megan Rietveld, and Lt. Col. Scott A. Baldwin, commander of 9th ESB. Rietveld was combat meritoriously promoted to staff sergeant for his actions while supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

Photo by Cpl. Anthony Ward Jr.

SEE **PROMOTION** PG 5

III MEF highlights joint operations capabilities

Gunnery Sgt. Cindy Fisher

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP COURTNEY — III Marine Expeditionary Force personnel highlighted III MEF's joint operations capabilities and the integration of its air-ground-logistics team during a visit by more than 120 Japan Self-Defense Force officers to Camp Courtney June 28.

A group of about 80 Japan Ground Self-Defense Force officers from the Command and General Staff Course of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force Staff College and a group of about 40 officers with the JSDF Joint Staff College, both located on mainland Japan, traveled to the camp to gain a better understanding of the III MEF.

The visit was part of the Japanese Observer Exchange Program, a program designed to foster interoperability between U.S. Marines and JSDF personnel, explained Lt. Col. Todd W. Kocian, the assistant future operations officer for Future Operation, G-3, III MEF.

"This builds relationships between the Marine Corps and the JSDF, and it also increases understanding between the two," said Kocian. "Visits such as this give us the chance to understand each other."

"This is key to working better together in the future," added

SEE **JOEP** PG 5

**IN THIS
ISSUE**

HIGH ALTITUDE SHOOT OUT

Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262 conducts a live-fire training evolution while airborne in two CH-46E Sea Knight helicopters.

PGS. 6-7



WHAT'S IN A NAME?

If you've ever wondered where your base obtained its name, read about each Okinawa-stationed war hero inside.

PG. 8

US Marines

No greater ambassadors

Robert D. Eldridge, Ph.D.

One of the many things I like about the Marine Corps is the say-ings Marines have adopted about themselves and their organization. These phrases can make me laugh, cry or just reflect on the proud history of the U.S. Marine Corps, and how proud I am to know such a team of elite warriors exists.

One of the sayings I like so much is: “No greater friend, no worse enemy.” I often use this expression when describing the important work III Marine Expeditionary Force does in the region, whether it is for deterrence, combat, theater security coop-eration or humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. It is a simple ex-pression that says a lot.

A saying I would like to see adopted is “U.S. Marines — No greater am-bassadors!” Whether on the home front or abroad, Marines, especially when in uniform, inspire awe and respect and, among the enemy, downright fear.

The interaction between Marines and civilians leave lasting impressions on the people Marines come across. Professional, devoted to country and Corps, possessing an outstanding physique and intellect, mature, elite — are all descriptions that come to mind.

The Marine Corps’ reputation precedes Marines wherever they go. Friends and foes alike know Marines are the greatest fighting force in the world and that it is better to be an ally than an opponent.

However, not all of the good impres-sions are shared equally. There are many people in Japan, and Okinawa specifically,

who know very little about the Marines. Japan itself does not have a Marine Corps, so there is no comparable force to help Japanese citizens understand the unique composition and diverse missions of the Marine Corps. In addition, much of what Japanese citizens read in the press or see on television may be negative—the oppo-site of what we know and believe about the men and women in the Marine Corps.

Whenever I encounter Marines, there are three things I try to impress upon them. First, I tell them not to assume that people they talk to understand or even know about the Marine Corps. I would not want them to miss an opportunity to carefully and politely explain what makes the Marine Corps such a unique fighting force.

Second, I emphasize that, just as positive ac-tions will be seen favor-ably, bad behavior out in town will create lasting negative impressions. It is incumbent on all Marines and their de-pendents to be on their very best behavior in town, as we are guests in Japan.

One incident can have serious reper-cussions. We can have no tolerance for crime, either on-base or off.

Finally, Marines and civilians alike need to be aware that we are individual representatives of the U.S. here in Ja-pan. We are all a direct reflection of our country, and Marines themselves are our greatest ambassadors.

Eldridge is the deputy assistant chief of staff, G-5, Marine Corps Bases Japan and a former tenured professor of Japanese political and diplomatic history at Osaka University.

We are all a direct reflection of our country, and Marines themselves are our greatest ambassadors.

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AROUND THE CORPS



Marines with the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit's maritime raid force use Navy rigid hull inflatable boats to board a cargo ship during training for an upcoming deployment at Camp Pendleton, Calif., June 30. The MRF practiced boarding ships from air and sea.

Photo by Cpl. Chad J. Pulliam



Cpl. Sherrell Burton, a quality assurance representative with Marine Attack Squadron 513, Marine Aircraft Group 13, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, I Marine Expeditionary Force, celebrates as an American flag waves overhead during an Independence Day celebration at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, July 4. The event included an oath reaffirmation ceremony headed by Gen. David Petraeus, U.S. Forces Afghanistan and NATO International Security Assistance Force commander.

Photo by Pfc. Sean Dennison



The Marine Corps Body Bearers fire three ceremonial 40 mm cannons to punctuate the finale of “Ode to Joy,” performed by the Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, during an Evening Parade at Marine Barracks 8th & I, Washington D.C. June 30. Photo by Cpl. Austin Hazard

COMMANDING GENERAL Maj. Gen. Peter J. Talleri

PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIRECTOR Lt. Col. David M. Griesmer

PRESS OFFICER 2nd Lt. Evan A. Almaas

PRESS CHIEF Gunnery Sgt. J. L. Wright Jr.

DESIGN EDITOR Audra A. Satterlee

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NORTHERN BUREAU

Camp Hansen
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SOUTHERN BUREAU

Camp Kinser
090-6861-7690



Winner, 2010 DoD Thomas Jefferson Award
Best Tabloid Format Newspaper

Navy implements new health care model

Pfc. Brianna Turner
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — Okinawa recently became the first overseas location to adopt the U.S. Navy's newest program designed to revolutionize Navy medicine and the Military Health System.

The Medical Home Port model, which was launched in the U.S. early this year, is in alignment with the Navy's strategic goal for patient and family-centered care.

The model, currently being used at Camps Kinser and Courtney, introduces a new approach to providing comprehensive health care to active-duty service members and their families.

"The model offers service members and their family's team-based care which includes a physician leader, a mid-level provider, such as a physician assistant, a nurse, corpsman or

medical technician, and the front desk staff," said Cmdr. George L. Dyer, director of branch clinics U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa. "The goal of this approach is that there will always be someone in the doctor's office that knows the patient and their situation."

Cmdr. Steven A. Kewish, a Family Medicine physician with USNH, said the plan is to incorporate additional members to the health care.

"In the future there could also be pharmacists, nutritionists and social workers," he said.

The new model introduces many improvements from the way Navy medicine conducts business, said Kewish.

"In the past, patients and providers were matched but if they couldn't be put together in an appointment, the system fell apart," said Kewish.

"In the new model, patients will always be cared for by their team. If they need to see a physician, it will be from their team. If they need to talk to a nurse or have a question answered, it will be

done from within their team."

Along with offering patients a team of health care providers, this new model will make access to care easier, as well as help cut medical costs.

"Patients will have same- or next-day access to clinics, which will cut down emergency room visits and save money," said Dyer.

Medical Home Port allows patients to book appointments, communicate with their care takers and view their lab results using the internet.

"There is a program we use called Relay Health," said Dyer, "It provides a private and secure messaging platform for patients to easily communicate with their doctors and health team."

The new model is scheduled to begin at Camp Lester's Family Medicine Clinic Aug. 1.

For more information, contact your health care provider.

Evans Clinic's renovations complete; new facility now open

Lance Cpl. Heather N. Choate
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — After more than a year of renovations, the Evans Branch Medical and Dental Clinics recently reopened its facilities here July 6.

The renovations, which began in December 2009, were designed to improve the condition of the building and interior equipment.

Navy Capt. Terry J. Moulton, the commanding officer of U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa, says this renovated facility is important because service members and their families deserve the best care possible.

Although the project was anticipated to be complete late last year, multiple setbacks caused the delay until this month, said Lt. Cmdr. Mike A. Payne, the department head of the Deployment Health Center, Evans Branch Medical and Dental Clinic, U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa, Japan.

The new dental clinic is will offer one of the most technologically-advanced facilities with brand new equipment and furniture.

"The new dental clinic is state-of-the-art with new furniture and equipment," he explained. "The new arrangement will allow greater access to care and the individual stations will allow for greater patient flow throughout the clinic."

The medical clinic has been restructured to improve functionality by revamping the treatment and waiting rooms.

The old medical clinic did not have a fully-functional laboratory or radiological services. The new clinic will have a full pharmacy complete with tele-pharmacy technology, a laboratory with new equipment and increased capabilities, a new radiology suite and modernized waiting rooms.

"One of the biggest additions patients will notice is that Evans is now handicap accessible," said Payne. "We now have a wheelchair ramp and an elevator just inside the main entrance to the dental clinic."

The newly renovated clinics are located in building 449.

For more information call 645-7375.



Above: Final preparations are made on the newly-renovated Evans Medical Clinic July 5. The clinic reopened its doors yesterday after more than a year of being closed. Photo by Gunnery Sgt. J. L. Wright Jr. Left: From left to right, Navy Capt. Terry J. Moulton, commanding officer of U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa, Maj. Gen. Peter J. Talleri, commanding general, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler and deputy commander for Marine Corps Bases Japan, Brig. Gen. Craig C. Crenshaw, commanding general, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, and Navy Capt. Michael J. Wolfgang commanding officer, 3rd Dental Battalion, cut the ribbon at the grand reopening of the Evans Medical and Dental Clinic on Camp Foster July 6. Photo by Pfc. Brianna Turner



BRIEFS

**EXPEDITIONARY WARFARE SCHOOL
DISTANCE EDUCATION PROGRAM
BLENDED SEMINAR PROGRAM**

U.S. Marine Corps' Training and Education Command's Security Cooperation Education and Training Command and College of Distance Education and Training will convene the second EWSDEP Blended Seminar Program October 2011 at MCB Quantico, Va. The Blended Seminar Program provides U.S. officers from all military services, including active duty and reserves, the opportunity to complete their career-level professional military education in seven months through a combination of onsite and online while learning alongside select international military officers.

For more information, contact stuart.weinstein@usmc.mil

**MARINE EMBASSY SECURITY GROUP
BRIEF AND INTERVIEW SCHEDULE**

Marines interested in duty assignments should attend the following briefs held at the theaters on their respective camps. Contact your career planner for more details.

July 18, 8 a.m. at Camp Hansen

July 19-20, 8 a.m. at Camp Foster

July 21, 8 a.m. at Camp Kinser

**HEADQUARTERS SPECIAL DUTY
SCREENING TEAM SCHEDULE**

Marines interested in obtaining duty assignments in recruiting, drill instructor, combat instructor or security forces, contact your career planner to attend the brief at the Camp Foster Theater July 27 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

USNH SHIPSHAPE PROGRAM

The U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa Health Department will begin the ShipShape Program July 14.

The next class cycle starts July 14 and runs every Thursday through September 1 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. or from 4-6 p.m.

ShipShape is open to all Status of Forces Agreement personnel and their families.

Preregistration is required. For more information or to sign up, call 643-7906 or e-mail NHOKi-Healthpromotion@med.navy.mil.

CREDO FAMILY RETREAT

The Chaplains' Religious Enrichment Development Operation will be conducting a family retreat July 29-31 at White Beach Naval Facility.

The focus of the retreat is to develop greater self-awareness for each family member, build teamwork within the family, help families discover the unique "design" of each child along with some effective parenting skills.

Request a registration form starting today via e-mail only at CREDO.mcbb.fct@usmc.mil.

Five of the 10 spaces are reserved for E-5 and below.

For more information, call 645-3041.

TO SUBMIT A BRIEF, send an e-mail to okinawamarine.mcbb.fct@usmc.mil, or fax your request to 645-3803. The deadline for submitting a brief is noon Friday. Okinawa Marine reserves the right to edit all submitted material.



Marines from Military Police Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 37, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, secure their gear used to set up the command operation center at the conclusion of a recent field exercise. Photos by Sgt. Brandon L. Saunders

Success relies on communication

Sgt. Brandon L. Saunders

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP KINSER — Marines from Military Police Company participated in a week-long training exercise at Landing Zones Hawk and Dodo near Camp Hansen June 23-30.

MP Co., part of Combat Logistics Regiment 37, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, conducted various missions during the FTX aimed at sustaining the unit and combat readiness.

The exercise was designed to prepare Marines within the unit for upcoming combat deployments to Afghanistan, and to improve their military occupational specialty knowledge.

"This was a pre-staged event for the pre-deployment training program," said 2nd Lt. Ben J. Gutek, 2nd platoon commander, MP Co. "Much of the training we conducted was specific to military police."

Training included scenarios for dealing with enemy prisoners of war, route reconnaissance, vehicle and entry control points and a variety of live-fire events. Marines also received professional military instruction from an instructor with the Marine Air-Ground Task Force Integrated Systems Training Center.

The Marines were also put through an enhanced motor vehicle operator's course to



Sgt. Ana L. Santana, operations chief for Military Police Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 37, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, and Lance Cpl. Hannah L. Delong, radio operator with Communications Company, CLR-37, conduct an operational check on radios during the Military Police Company's field exercise.

keep their skills fresh behind the wheel, according to Gutek.

The exercise proved most beneficial to Marines who are scheduled to attach to Combat Logistics Battalion 4, Combat Logistics Regiment 3, 3rd MLG, for an upcoming deployment to Afghanistan, said Sgt. Christian A. Jensen, operations chief for MP Co.

The exercise also offered junior Marines an opportunity to showcase their skills, according to Jensen.

"Junior Marines stepped up into leadership billets during the exercise," Jensen added.

"This will allow them to assume more responsibility when in theater."

Working with the communications equipment was a large part of the exercise. Marine were given refresher courses designed to keep their skills sharp and allow them use practical application before deploying.

"Without communication, you're left having to overcome the hurdle of not being able to spread the commanding officer's intent," said Lance Cpl. Mary A. McKenna, fire team leader with 1st platoon, MP Co.

JOEP FROM PG 1

JGSDF Maj. Taiki Nogami, the JGSDF's assistant III MEF liaison officer.

The JOEP program includes small-scale to large-scale events such as visits by individual JSDF officers and includes the participation in Yama Sukura, a bilateral, command-level, training exercise typically involving more than 5,000 U.S. and JSDF personnel, Kocian said.

Kocian briefed mid-level officers from the JGSDF Staff College in the morning and senior officers from the Joint Staff College in the afternoon about III MEF's command structure. He also detailed the structure and capabilities of the MEF's major subordinate commands to include 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade and the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit and how each operates as Marine Corps Air-Ground Task Force.

The structure of the MAGTF ensures III MEF's air, ground and logistics capabilities are fully integrated, added Lt. Gen. Kenneth J. Glueck Jr., III MEF commanding general and commander of Marine Corps Bases Japan.

"Every Marine officer is first and foremost trained to be a platoon commander even if he is an aviator or logistician. So, you have that ingrained integration -- air, ground and logistics," he explained.

"You are the future leaders. It comes down to understanding the entire force," Glueck said adding JSDF officers need to also understand their sister services' capabilities and what they bring to a fight.

"There is a future joint task force commander sitting in here," Glueck told the Joint Staff College students. "The only way he is going to be successful is if he understands the capabilities of the maritime, air and ground forces."

During both briefs, Glueck also discussed Operation Tomodachi and working with JSDF personnel during the operation.

"What you had was a complex crisis. Many train for crisis. Few train for a complex crisis," Glueck said of the March earthquake that resulted in a tsunami and a potential nuclear crisis on Honshu.

III MEF planners met the evening of the disaster and had Marine Corps air assets based at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma flying to mainland less than a day later with additional assets deployed the following day, he explained.

"Assisting your country was extremely important to III MEF and our nation. III MEF lives here, we work here and our families live here. It was very important to us," he said.

The briefs showed the importance III MEF leaders place on interoperability and joint operations and the Marine Corps' ability to rapidly plan and execute missions, Kocian said.

Integration of forces and learning to work as a team were the main messages he drew from the brief, agreed Japan Air Self-Defense Force Col. Hirofumi Imafuku, a Joint Staff College student.

PROMOTION FROM PG 1

and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with combat distinguishing device for valor during the deployment. "They're a true representation of this battalion."

Both Marines were deployed to various regions of Afghanistan, throughout Helmand province to include the Sangin District.

"(Reitveld) was constantly taking charge," said Master Sgt. David W. Dickens, operations chief for Company A, 9th ESB, who deployed with Reitveld. "As a sergeant we had him running missions, which are usually limited to our staff non-commissioned officers and officers."

"During the deployment, he was in charge of our route sweeps; he was leading squads of Marines in clearing (improvised explosive devices)," said Dickens. "He was always the first one to volunteer for a hard mission, and he led his Marines with firmness and fairness."

"I was just doing what was in front of me," said Rietveld.

A lot of the missions tasked to the squad were outside the wire improving forward operating bases and building roads, said Rietveld.

"One of our first missions was to build a FOB on top of a hill," said Rietveld of a place well known for IEDs. "We witnessed some grunts

go in and clear it out and four IEDs went off within 100 meters of each other."

"Right then, all the Marines who were on the mission realized what they were getting themselves into and how serious it was," added Rietveld.

During the seven-month deployment, Rietveld and his team went on more than 10 missions, some lasting more than a month in duration.

Like Rietveld, Romreill was also recognized for his courage and leadership during the deployment.

"Long days; hard work; every day was different," said Romreill about his time in Afghanistan.

These were days filled with building bunkers, clearing lanes for IEDs and gaining positive identification on IEDs allowing Explosive Ordnance Disposal Marines to dispose of them, he added. Every day brought a different mission, he said.

One day was all too different from the others.

Romreill's squad came under enemy fire Aug. 31, 2010, while prefabricating guard posts and two Marines were wounded from machine-gun fire.

Romreill immediately moved an armored Tractor Rubber-Tired Articulating Multi-Terrain vehicle



Sgt. Cody T. Romreill, a combat engineer with 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, listens to the battalion commander address the battalion after he was presented with the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal a "V" for Valor, June 29. Photo by Cpl. Anthony Ward Jr.

between his squad and the enemy.

He then moved a wounded Marine in the bucket of the loader and transported him a safe place then returned to aid the rest of his squad move the injured Marines to a nearby landing zone.

While carrying a wounded Marine to the helicopter, Romreill was again engaged by enemy fire, but continued to lead the litter team through sustained fire to the helicopter and augmented security until the helicopter was able to evacuate both injured Marines.

As a noncommissioned officer, leadership is expected to be exhibited, said Romreill. "Getting out front and leading is part of the job."



From right to left, Lt. Gen. Kenneth J. Glueck Jr., commanding general of III Marine Expeditionary Force and commander of Marine Corps Bases Japan, Maj. Gen. Mark A. Brilakis, outgoing commanding general of 3rd Marine Division, III MEF, Brig. Gen. Frederick M. Padilla, the division's incoming commanding general, and Col. Stephen B. Lewallen, commander of the troops and the division's chief of staff, troop the line during a change of command ceremony June 30 at the division headquarters on Camp Courtney. Photo by Cpl. Justin R. Wheeler

DIVISION FROM PG 1

Padilla told the service members, JGSDF personnel, family members and friends gathered at the ceremony that he is looking forward to leading the division and being a member of the III MEF team. This is the first tour of duty in Japan for Padilla, who was previously the commanding general of Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., and the Eastern Recruiting Region.

To the division's Marines and sailors, Padilla said, "I am looking forward to the challenge. I am looking forward to building on the legacies, the history that is the 3rd Marine Division."

For Brilakis, the day was one of thanks.

During the ceremony, he thanked the many Marines and sailors he served with during his 23 months stationed on Okinawa. He also thanked the friends and mentors he met along the way.

Though Brilakis' tenure as the division's top leader was only four months, it was four months filled with activity.

Less than two weeks after accepting command of

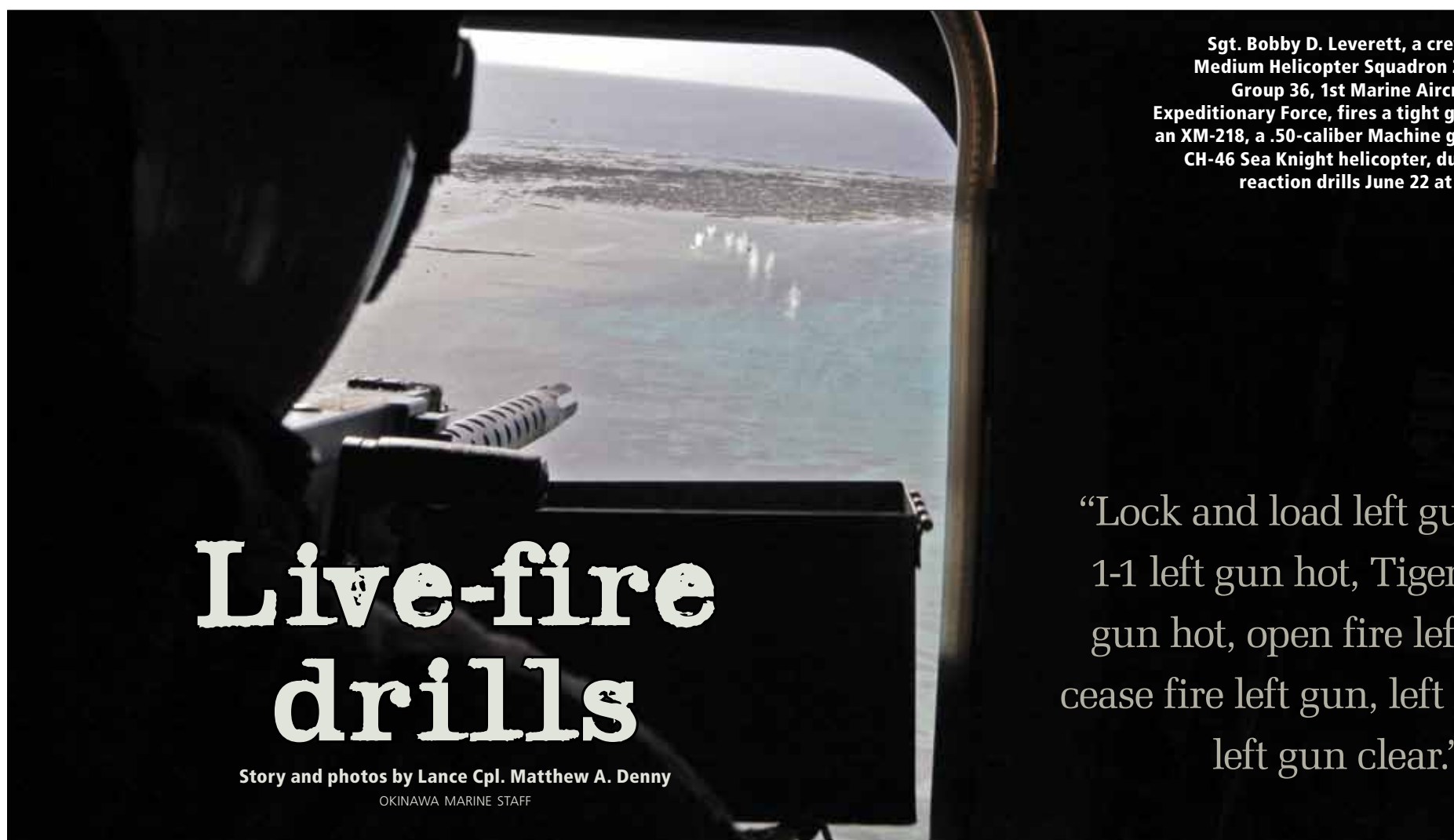
the division, Brilakis was deployed with elements of the division to Honshu, Japan, to provide command and control for the humanitarian assistance and disaster relief mission of Operation Tomodachi following the natural disasters that struck Honshu in mid-March. He remained there until early April.

During Brilakis' command, the division deployed three battalions in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and deployed teams to support Joint Special Operations Task Force-Philippines. Additionally, the division supported several other exercises with partner nations including Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines.

"This is just a great team and a great brotherhood," Brilakis said. "This has been a great opportunity out here in the Western Pacific. The sun never sets on the 3rd Marine Division."

"It is a proud organization. Whatever happens tomorrow, this organization will be ready," he said.

Brilakis' next assignment will be as deputy commandant, Programs and Resources, Headquarters, Marine Corps.



Live-fire drills

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Matthew A. Denny
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Sgt. Bobby D. Leverett, a crew chief with the Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262, Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, fires a tight burst from an XM-218, a .50-caliber Machine gun mounted on the CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter, during live-fire reaction drills June 22 at Firing Range W-174.

“Lock and load left gun, 1-1 left gun hot, Tiger gun hot, open fire left, cease fire left gun, left left gun clear.”

Marines gain proficiency with machine guns during flight

The Internal Communication System on board the CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter was clogged with chatter during live-fire drills at Firing Range W-174 over the East China Sea, as part of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262’s ground threat-reaction training on Okinawa June 22.

The squadron, which is part of Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st

Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, conducted the live-fire training evolution while airborne in two CH-46E Sea Knight helicopters. The goal of the exercise was to enhance proficiency in combat effectiveness.

During the training, all crew chiefs gained more experience firing the XM-218, .50-caliber machine gun, and one of them earned flight hours towards his

Aerial Gunner Qualification.

“In order to make sure you can be in the air by yourself and operate the XM-218 in a combat situation, you have to earn the AGQ,” said Cpl. Brent E. Warnhoff, a crew chief with HMM-262. “If we don’t know what we’re doing up there, we are no help to anyone in combat.”

Crew chiefs have many tasks before, during and after a flight.

“With all the tasks we have to do, the most important one is understanding the on-board weapons and protecting the flight crew from ground threats,” said Warnhoff.

Before flying and firing, the machine gun needs to be cleaned and properly lubricated.

The flight crew spends close to an hour preparing the weapon system prior to mounting them in the helicopters.

“We have to know the weapon inside and out, just like any weapon operator in the Marine Corps,” said Warnhoff. “We clean and inspect the gun to make sure it works properly and fires smooth and fast.”

During the evolution, flight crews practiced ground threat reaction drills, which simulated response to small-arms fire.



Ordinance for the live-fire drills is picked up by a crew chief with HMM-262, Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, during the training at Firing Range W-174.



A Marine from HMM-262, fires a XM-218, a .50-caliber Machine gun designed for the CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter, during ground threat reaction drills June 22.

Marines also laid down suppressive fire and pilots practiced evading techniques.

“Today was successful, we had only one gun malfunction and had to troubleshoot it mid-flight,” said Sgt. Bobby D. Leverett, a crew chief with HMM-262. “Identifying problems and fixing them is what training is all about.”

The drills are designed for crew chiefs and pilots to feel what it is like to respond to live fire in combat situations.

“It makes us as pilots feel safe knowing our crew chiefs are proficient in the on-board weapons, so

...w chief with Marine
262, Marine Aircraft
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ring ground threat-
Firing Range W-174.

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The flight crews of two CH-46E Sea Knight helicopters with HMM-262, assess the situation in the landing zone to remove any possible threats, after a combat assault landing during a live-fire training at Firing Range W-174 exercise June 22.



...p from ordnance Marines with 1st MAW. The crews fired more than 4,000
...ring Range W-174 June 22.



Sgt. Bobby D. Leverett, a crew chief with HMM-262, fixes a bandoleer of .50-caliber rounds while preparing his ammunition for a live-fire training exercise at Firing Range W-174 June 22. The weapon operator is responsible for inspecting all ammunition to ensure it fires smoothly.

that we can focus on flying," said Capt. Michael S. Tyson, a pilot with HMM-262.

Although the crew chiefs are proficient and understand the weapons, the pilots have to give clearance before any Marine opens fire. Before the flight, pilots brief the crew chiefs on appropriate times to engage targets with weapon systems.

"During pre-flight meetings, the pilot discusses firing clearances with the crew members to allow for quick reaction times," said Capt. Burr Ferguson, Jr., a pilot with HMM-262. "If I waited to give

clearances when being fired upon, by the time the (firing) clearance is given the threat could be out of range or could have caused life-threatening damage."

The two flight crews performed more than seven different scenarios during the three-hour evolution and fired more than 4,000 rounds.

"Drills like this are critical to build muscle memory, decrease reaction times and gain experience in live-fire combat situations," said Ferguson. "The training gained today was incredibly valuable and can only be gained by going out and getting dirty."

What's in a Name?

Okinawa bases named for fallen heroes

Cpl. Jovane M. Henry

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

During World War II, one of the fiercest battles took place in the Pacific. The Battle of Okinawa, fought in 1945, claimed more than 62,000 U.S. casualties, making it the bloodiest warfare U.S. forces experienced during the War.

Sixty-six years later, the names of eight Medal of Honor recipients who gave their lives as an ultimate sacrifice for their country, are immortalized through the military installations now established here on the island.

"The fact that every Marine Corps installation on Okinawa bears the name of a Marine that willingly sacrificed their well-being for the sake of the mission and what they believed in is absolutely fitting," said Staff Sgt. Willie Jenkins III, supply staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge with

3rd Medical Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 35, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. "It ensures the dedication and selflessness these Marines displayed is presented to not only the Corps, but also to Okinawa and the world on a daily basis."

Each Marine Corps base on Okinawa is named for a Marine who received the Medal of Honor for their actions during the battle.

While common knowledge for some, many are unaware of the significance of the name of the base where they live.

"I knew the bases here were named for Marines, but I didn't realize the actual impact of the sacrifices they made," said Lance Cpl. Michael Cook, a battalion

legal clerk with 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 3rd MLG. "It makes me feel proud to know that I live and work at an installation named after a fighter who embodied everything a Marine is supposed to be, and displayed ultimate selflessness."



Camp Lester



Fred F. Lester

Hospital Apprentice 1st Class Fred F. Lester was a corpsman assigned to Assault Rifle Platoon, 1st Battalion, 22nd Marine Regiment, 6th Marine Division. Lester was treating a wounded Marine under a barrage of enemy machine guns, rifles and grenades when he was hit. He managed to pull the wounded man toward a covered position, but was hit a second time. Lester got the Marine to safety but was too seriously wounded to administer care. Realizing his wounds were fatal, Lester refused medical care while directing treatment for other wounded Marines. He died shortly after.

It makes me feel proud to know that I live and work at an installation named after a fighter who embodied everything a Marine is supposed to be and displayed ultimate selflessness.

- Lance Cpl. Michael Cook

Camp Courtney



Henry A. Courtney

Maj. Henry A. Courtney, Jr. was the executive officer of 2nd Battalion, 22nd Marine Regiment, 6th Marine Division. On May 14, 1945, he led a charge to seize a forward slope, taking out enemy gun positions along the way. When he reached the hilltop, Courtney encountered a large Japanese force. Attacking, he killed many and forced the remainder to retreat into caves. He was killed by a mortar burst while moving among his troops.

Camp Foster



William A. Foster

Pfc. William A. Foster was a rifleman with 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division. After assaulting a fortified Japanese position, he and another Marine engaged in a fierce hand grenade duel with enemy soldiers. An enemy grenade landed beyond reach of the Marines in the foxhole, so Foster dove on it, absorbing the explosion with his body. He lived long enough to hand his last two grenades to his fellow Marine, saying, "Make them count!"



Dale M. Hansen

Camp Hansen

Pvt. Dale M. Hansen was assigned to Company E, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division. During a critical stage of combat, he launched a one-man assault destroying enemy fighting holes. He reached a ridge crest and opened fire on six Japanese soldiers, killing four before his rifle jammed. Arming himself with another weapon and grenades, he advanced farther, destroying a mortar position and killing eight more of the enemy.

Camp Kinser



Elbert L. Kinser

Sgt. Elbert L. Kinser led a rifle platoon with Company I, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division. While moving along a strategic ridge, Kinser engaged in a grenade battle after a sudden, close enemy attack. When a grenade landed nearby, Kinser threw himself onto the grenade to shield his men. He died in the explosion.

Camp McTureous



Robert M. McTureous

Pvt. Robert M. McTureous, Jr. was with 3rd Battalion, 29th Marine Regiment, 6th Marine Division. He waged a one-man assault on the enemy when he noticed stretcher bearers under fire as they tried to evacuate wounded. His actions drew the heavy fire off the stretcher bearers and onto himself. After receiving serious wounds, McTureous crawled 200 yards to a sheltered position within friendly lines before calling for medical aid.

Camp Gonsalves — Jungle Warfare Training Center



Harold Gonsalves

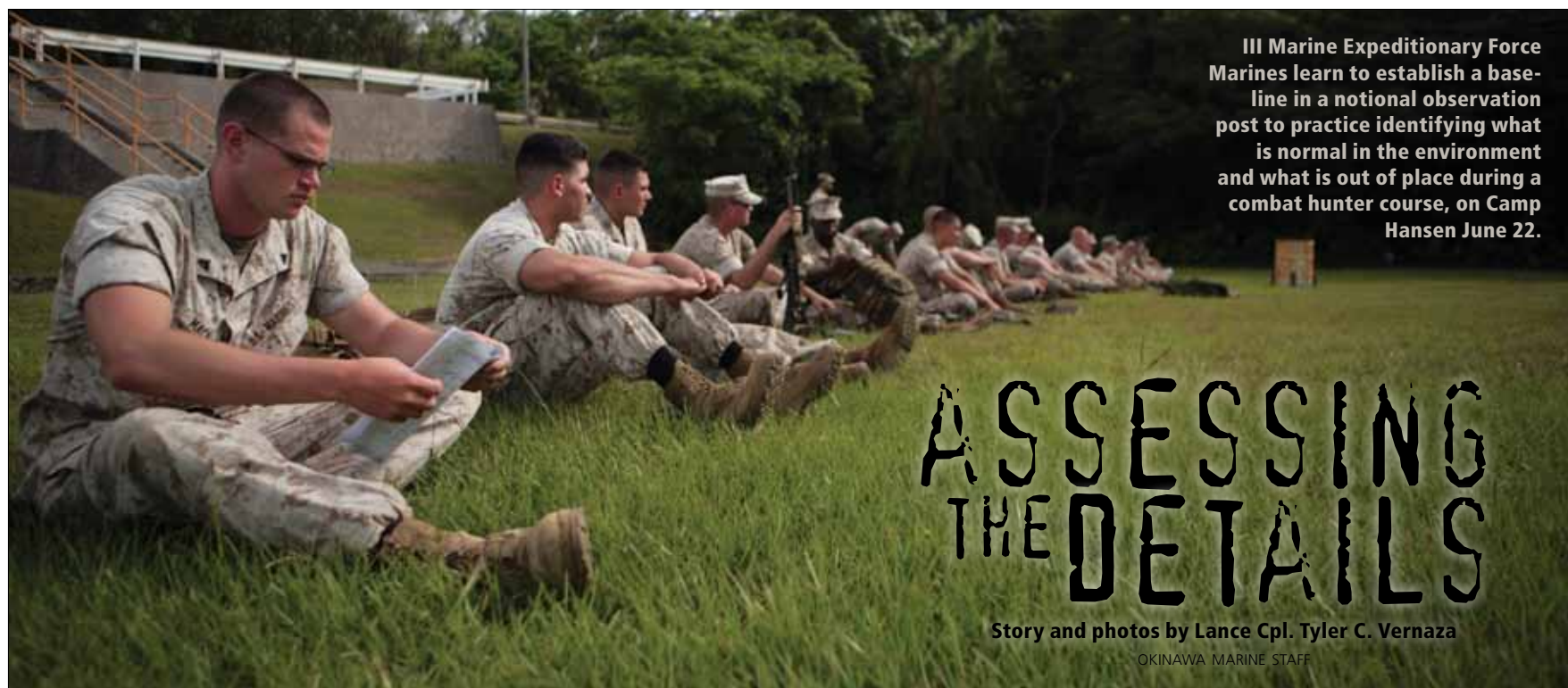
Pfc. Harold Gonsalves, a scout sergeant with 4th Battalion, 15th Marine Regiment, 6th Marine Division, endured bombardment to help his forward observation team direct artillery fire during the assault at Mount Yaetake. When a Japanese grenade fell nearby, Gonsalves gave his life by diving on top of it.

Camp Schwab



Albert E. Schwab

Pfc. Albert E. Schwab was a flame-thrower operator with Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment. On May 7, 1945, while pinned down in a valley by machine-gun fire, he scaled a cliff and brazenly attacked the enemy's gun with his flame thrower. As a result, his company was able to occupy the ridge. Suddenly, a second machine gun opened fire. Although he had not had time to replenish his supply of fuel, Pfc. Schwab advanced and succeeded in eliminating the gun before its final burst caught him in the left hip, inflicting fatal wounds.



III Marine Expeditionary Force Marines learn to establish a baseline in a notional observation post to practice identifying what is normal in the environment and what is out of place during a combat hunter course, on Camp Hansen June 22.

ASSESSING THE DETAILS

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Tyler C. Vernaza

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Marines hone skills, become combat hunters

In the mid-2000s, Marines' and sailors' vulnerabilities were being exploited in Iraq by enemy snipers and improvised-explosive device makers. Commanders began to consider the best ways to counter attack them using more intelligent tactics rather than more technologically-advanced combat systems. In 2006, the Marine Corps sought to increase offensive spirit and to become predators, not prey - the Combat Hunter program was born.

About 40 Marines from III Marine Expeditionary Force participated in a Combat Hunter course on Camp Hansen June 20-24.

The week-long course was designed to enhance the Marines' ability to identify what is normal in a combat environment, what is out of place and what is missing.

The course also helped the Marines develop the ability to assess a situation or an area for any threat before advancing

their position, avoiding possible surprise attacks that could result in casualties.

Throughout the week, Marines were taught during lectures and practical application.

During the practical application portion, the students practiced range estimation, item identification and "keep-in-mind" games.

Keep-in-mind games, or KIM's game, a popular training tool for Marines, comes from the book

"Kim," written by Rudyard Kipling in the early 1900s. In the novel, an orphan named Kim grows up during the British occupation of India and is eventually trained in espionage.

During the training, he must memorize a table full of objects. On a second look, when objects have been removed, he must report the missing pieces.

The Marines also practiced item identification, which can prove useful in



Capt. Patrick D. VanHorne, team officer-in-charge with Mobilization Training Company, Mobilization Training Battalion, School of Infantry West, talks with the Marines during a Combat Hunter course at Camp Hansen June 22. Throughout the course instructors discussed decision-making and legal, moral and ethical actions.

identifying threats from an observation post.

"The thing the Marines need to take away from this training is that it can't be learned in a week. It takes practice and constant revisiting," said Sgt. Christopher B. Wilson, combat instructor with Mobility Training Company, Mobilization Training Battalion School of Infantry West.

The course also helped the Marines learn to think like the enemy in order to outsmart the enemy.

"Conventional warfare doesn't always work on today's enemies. This course has helped me understand how to think and plan like the enemy would," said Lance Cpl. Jeremy M. Schweinler, a military policeman with Military Police Company, Headquarters Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III

Marine Expeditionary Force. "It's all about being two steps ahead."

Knowing the enemy is also an important part of learning how to think like them.

"By taking a step back, looking at how the enemy might gather information, behavioral patterns and target selection, we learn their planning cycle," said Capt. Patrick D. VanHorne, team officer-in-charge with Mobility Training Company. "During the classroom time, we try to put together scenarios we might encounter in a combat environment."

Ultimately, the Marines are taught to think like hunters.

By being ahead of the game, the Marines can aggressively engage the enemy or wait silently in the shadows.



Marines use rifle combat-optic sights attached to their M16A4 and M4 service rifles to practice range estimations during a Combat Hunter course at Camp Hansen June 22. The week-long course is designed to improve identification and observation skills.

Scuba safety keeps underwater exploration fun

Lance Cpl. Erik S. Brooks Jr.
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

During the summer months many take to the beaches for a variety of water-related activity. One of those activities, scuba diving, offers enthusiasts the opportunity to explore the depths of the sea.

Along with the fun comes the dangers of diving. With the peak of dive season happening now, there are many guidelines to follow to keep safe.

There are several ways to prevent dangerous situations when diving.

Knowing your limits, as well as your gear, is a way to prevent accidents, said Mike Morrison, the chief dive instructor at Camp Foster's Tsunami Scuba.

Divers are generally classified into three groups; open water diver, advanced open water



Scuba gear maintenance is an important part of diving and should be done regularly. Function checks of all equipment is essential to staying safe while diving. Photo by Lance Cpl. Erik S. Brooks Jr.

diver and rescue diver, said Morrison. To stay safe, one must follow the guidelines they learn during their training.

"Before a dive, make sure you are in good health, hydrated and your gear is serviced and working properly," said Edward J. Dunn, a master dive instructor. "This will ensure you have the best chance to stay safe underwater."

Morrison instructs

students to follow the ten second rule, a well-known rule in the scuba diving community.

"If you have to think about going in the water at that spot for more than ten seconds, don't do it," said Morrison. "Staying safe under the water is usually 99.9 percent common sense."

When ascending from a dive, take a three to five minute safety stop at 15

feet below before surfacing, said Dunn.

This is done so a diver's lungs can adjust to the pressure without bodily harm.

"Divers should maintain an ascent rate of 60 feet per minute or slower," said Robert A. Zimmerman, scuba recreation specialist at Camp Foster.

Another rule to follow is the buddy system.

Always dive with someone else, and let someone know where and when you are going to dive and provide them with a backup dive site. This ensures diver safety in case plans change.

"Divers should bring the dive flag and a whistle with them on every dive," said Morrison.

The dive flag tells the boaters where the diver is underwater, so the boats stay away from that area. The whistle is used by a diver to signal for help

when they are in distress."

With thousands going diving this summer, it will not be hard to find a dive buddy.

Going out in a group is the best bet to stay safe according to Dunn.

"Beginners should dive with divers that know the areas," he said. "Some new divers let their ego and lack of common sense do the deciding and they end up in trouble. Do not let peer pressure talk you into a dive you do not feel comfortable with."

Being safe in the water is all about common sense.

"Most people don't look at the water as dangerous," said Morrison. "If you look at the water as a wilderness, you will be prepared for any danger."

For weather and sea conditions call 634-4081 or visit <http://kadenaforce.support.com/weather.html>.



Marines, sailors volunteer time with local community

Pfc. Daniel E. Valle
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Artillery Marines are known for receiving firing missions and supporting their fellow Marines on the front lines of battle. For a few Marines from 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, they recently received a different type of support request. Instead of their typical fire mission, they went to help spread cheer to local children at an orphanage near the East Fuji Maneuver Area.

Marines and sailors of the battalion, part of 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, took part in the community relations project at Seishin Orphanage July 3 as part of Artillery Relocation Training Program 11-1.

The purpose of this project was to take Marines and sailors away from the training atmosphere and give them a chance to help strengthen relationships with the local Japanese community.

"We visit orphanages and elementary schools to help build a better relationship with the Japanese people," said Lt. j.g. Matthew C. Fore, battalion chaplain, 3rd Bn., 12th Marines. "The purpose of this event is to give the Marines and sailors a chance to get away from the training environment and get out into the community and learn the local culture."

Participants said events like this are a great opportunity to interact with the local community.

"It was a great time and it felt good to see the kids smile," said Petty Officer 3rd Class Christopher L. Davis, a corpsman with Romeo Battery, 3rd Bn., 12th Marines. "We played soccer, basketball, pushed



Marines and sailors with 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, participated in a community relations project near the East Fuji Maneuver Area July 3. The purpose of the project was to help strengthen the relationship with the local Japanese community. Photo by 2nd Lt. Jeremy A. Croft

them on swings, pulled them in wagons and played other games with them."

This project shows the Japanese people that the Marines are here to train and help the community in any way possible, said Cpl. William W. Reed, a small arms technician with Romeo Battery, 3rd Bn., 12th Marines.

This is the fourth community relations event Fore has participated in as a part of the program and he says every event has been rewarding in its own way.

"The children are always excited to see us and even with the language barrier everyone understands the universal language of the smile," he said.

In Theaters Now

JULY 8 - JULY 14

FOSTER

TODAY Cars 2 (G), 3 and 6 p.m.; Bad Teacher (R), 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Cars 2 (G), noon, 3 and 6 p.m.; Super 8 (PG13), 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Transformers: Dark of the Moon (PG13), noon, 4 and 8 p.m.
MONDAY Cars 2 (G), 3 p.m.; Super 8 (PG13), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Cars 2 (G), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Fast Five (PG13), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Transformers: Dark of the Moon (PG13), 3 and 7 p.m.

FUTENMA

TODAY Fast Five (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Transformers: Dark of the Moon (PG13), 12:30 p.m., 4 and 7:30 p.m.
SUNDAY African Cats (G), 4 p.m.; Fast Five (PG13), 7 p.m.
MONDAY Green Lantern (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY Closed
THURSDAY Closed

KADENA

TODAY Something Borrowed (PG13), 6 p.m.; Water for Elephants (PG13), 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Closed
SUNDAY Something Borrowed (PG13), 1 and 4 p.m.; Bad Teacher (R), 7 p.m.
MONDAY Closed
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY Closed
THURSDAY Cars 2 (G), 3 p.m.; Water for Elephants (PG13), 7 p.m.

KINSER

TODAY Something Borrowed (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Water for Elephants (PG13), 3 and 6:30 p.m.
SUNDAY Something Borrowed (PG13), 3 and 6:30 p.m.
MONDAY Closed
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY Transformers: Dark of the Moon (PG13), 3 and 6:30 p.m.
THURSDAY Green Lantern (PG13), 6:30 p.m.

COURTNEY

TODAY Transformers: Dark of the Moon (PG13), 2, 5:30 and 9 p.m.
SATURDAY African Cats (G), 2 p.m.; Fast Five (PG13), 6 p.m.
SUNDAY Green Lantern (PG13), 2 and 6 p.m.
MONDAY Hoodwinked Too! Hood Vs. Evil (G), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY Bad Teacher (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Closed

HANSEN

TODAY Water for Elephants (PG13), 6 p.m.; Something Borrowed (PG13), 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Green Lantern (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Source Code (PG13), 2 p.m.; Something Borrowed (PG13), 5:30 p.m.
MONDAY Transformers: Dark of the Moon (PG13), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Transformers: Dark of the Moon (PG13), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Something Borrowed (PG13), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Bad Teacher (R), 7 p.m.

SCHWAB

TODAY Green Lantern (PG13), 7 p.m.
SATURDAY Fast Five (PG13), 5 p.m.
SUNDAY African Cats (G), 5 p.m.
MONDAY-THURSDAY Closed

THEATER DIRECTORY

CAMP FOSTER 645-3465
KADENA AIR BASE 634-1869
 (USO NIGHT) 632-8781
MCAS FUTENMA 636-3890
 (USO NIGHT) 636-2113
CAMP COURTNEY 622-9616
CAMP HANSEN 623-4564
 (USO NIGHT) 623-5011
CAMP KINSER 637-2177
CAMP SCHWAB 625-2333
 (USO NIGHT) 625-3834

Movie schedule is subject to change without notice. Call in advance to confirm show times. For a complete listing, visit www.shopmyexchange.com.



SINGLE MARINE PROGRAM

For more information, or to sign up, contact the Single Marine Program at 645-3681.

SMP NEW REPRESENTATIVE TRAINING - JULY 11

• This training will be held July 11 at 3 p.m. at the SMP main office on Camp Foster, building 5674. All new SMP representatives must attend.

EXPO/PINEAPPLE PARK TRIP - JULY 17

• EXPO Park has many activities for sea-lovers to enjoy. One of Expo Park's greatest features is the Churaumi Aquarium, the largest in Japan. Pineapple Park has many types of pineapples which are used in the production of soap and many other products, such as cakes and candies. Sign up by July 13. The bus will leave MCAS Futenma Semper Fit Gym at 8:50 a.m. and Camp Kinser Semper Fit Gym at 9:10 a.m.

GIRLS DAY OUT - JULY 30

• Relax at CoCok nail salon and have lunch at Transit Cafe. This is open to the first six women who sign up. Transportation will leave the SMP main office on Camp Foster, building 5674, at 11:15 a.m. Sign up deadline is July 22.

SMP DISCOVER GOLF

• Free golf lessons for single Marines and sailors will be offered on the first and third Friday of every month from 9-11 a.m. at Taiyo Golf Course. Participants will meet at the SMP office on Camp Foster by 8 a.m. Lessons are provided on a space-available basis.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

• **Tengan Castle Family Night:** Volunteer to assist at family night every Thursday from 5-9 p.m. at the Camp Courtney Tengan Castle.

Mention of any company in this notice does not constitute endorsement by the Marine Corps.

CHAPEL SCHEDULE

CAMP FOSTER | 645-7486

- **Catholic:** Mon-Fri, 11:45 a.m.; Sat, 5 p.m.; Sun, 10 a.m.
- **Christian Science:** Sun, 11 a.m., Building 442
- **Eastern Orthodox:** Divine Liturgy, Sun, 9:30 a.m.; Vespers, Sat, 5 p.m.
- **Gospel:** Sun, 11:30 a.m.; 2nd, 3rd Sun, Children's Church, 11 a.m.
- **Jewish:** (Informal) Fri, 6:30 p.m.
- **Latter Day Saints:** Mon, 6:30 p.m.
- **Lutheran DVD Worship:** Sun, 4 p.m.
- **Muslim:** Prayer, Fri, 12:45 p.m.
- **Protestant:** Sun, 8:30 a.m.
- **Seventh Day Adventist:** Sat, 9:30 a.m., at Torii Station 644-5701/644-4281

CAMP SCHWAB | 622-9350

- **Catholic:** Thurs, 11:30 a.m.
- **Protestant:** Sun, 4 p.m.

MCAS FUTENMA | 636-3058

- **Catholic:** Sun, noon
- **Contemporary:** Fri, 7 p.m.; Sun, 9 a.m.

CAMP LESTER | 643-7248

- **Catholic:** Sun, 8 a.m.
- **Non-Denominational:** Sun, 9 a.m., Hospital Chapel; Sun, 10 a.m., Lester Chapel

CAMP HANSEN | 622-9350

- **Catholic:** Sun, 10 a.m., East Chapel
- **Latter Day Saints:** Wed, 6:30 p.m., Library
- **Protestant:** Sun, 11 a.m., West Chapel

CAMP COURTNEY | 622-9350

- **Catholic:** Sun, 8 a.m.
- **Protestant:** Sun, 10:45 a.m.

CAMP MCTUREOUS | 622-9350

- **Gospel:** Sun, 12:30 p.m.

CAMP KINSER | 637-1148

- **Catholic:** Sun, noon
- **Protestant:** Sun, 9:30 a.m.

KADENA AIR BASE | 634-1288

WWW.KADENACHAPEL.ORG

- **Catholic:** Sun, 8:30 a.m., Mass, Chapel 1; Sun, 11:45 a.m., Mass, Chapel 1; Sun, 4 p.m., Mass, Chapel 1; Daily Mass, Mon-Fri, 11:30 a.m., Chapel 1; Reconciliation, Sun, 3:15 p.m., Chapel 1
- **Contemporary:** Sun, 10 a.m., Chapel 1
- **Gospel:** Sun, 10:30 a.m., Chapel 3
- **Protestant Bible Institute:** Tues, 6 p.m., Chapel 1
- **Traditional:** Sun, 9:30 a.m., Chapel 2
- **Wiccan/Pagan:** Sat, 2 p.m., Building 856

FOR UPCOMING SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES AND EVENTS FOR ALL MARINE CORPS BASE CHAPELS VISIT: WWW.MARINES.MIL/UNIT/MCBJAPAN/PAGES/AROUNDMCBJ/CHAPEL.ASPX

Japanese phrase of the week:

“Hai” (pronounced hi) means, “yes.”
 “ie” (pronounced e-yay) means, “no.”



June 27 - July 1

Rifle Range
 Cpl. Michael A. Castaneda,
 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, 333

Pistol Range
 Sgt. Jeffrey M. Moeller,
 III Marine Expeditionary Force
 Headquarters Group, 377

Gerald Sharber, Athletic director, Marine Corps Community Services Semper Fit Camp Foster addresses the crowd before the skills competition June 29. The skills competition kicked off the six-day Firecracker Softball Tournament.

Firecracker

Softball Tournament

Casey, Yardbuster go distance at softball tournament

Story and photos by
Lance Cpl. Erik S. Brooks Jr.
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Service members joined together to challenge each other during the Firecracker Softball Tournament at Camp Foster June 29 through July 4.

The six-day event consisted of 23 teams whose players hail from Okinawa, Korea and mainland Japan.

"It's a fun way for people to get out there and take a break from work," said Theodore R. Shadley, sports coordinator at Gunners Fitness Center on Camp Foster.

The tournament kicked off June 29 with a skills competition consisting of a three-man relay race, a base running

competition and a home run derby.

Russ Mitcham of team Casey won the skills competition by blowing out his competition in the home run derby with six crushing home runs. Kim Johnson-Olion was the victor in the women's home run derby.

The games began June 30 with an opening ceremony featuring keynote speaker Sgt. Maj. Patrick L. Kimble, sergeant major, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler, and performances from the III Marine Expeditionary Force Band.

Following the opening ceremony the teams played until 11:00 p.m. and resumed July 1 at 6 p.m. Then, the teams played continuously from July 1-3.

"One of the challenges of

the tournament was reminding players of a 3 a.m. game," said Shadley. "Players go home after a 10 p.m. game and don't wake up."

The teams battled each other in an elimination round where the top four teams from each bracket continued on to battle for the title of the Firecracker Softball Tournament champions.

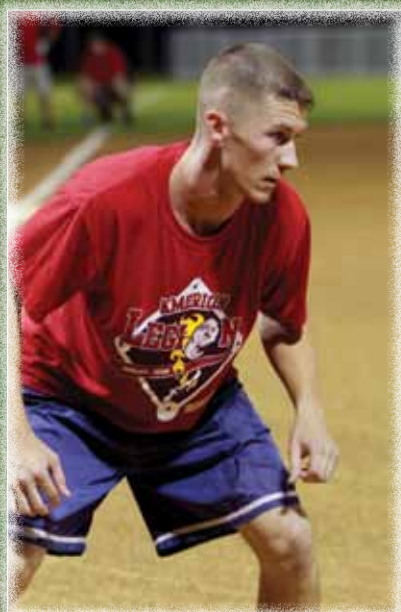
Advancing to the second round, a double-elimination round, was Yardbusters and Okinawa Dragons from the women's bracket, and men's teams included American Legion and Casey.

The Yardbusters defeated the Dragons in the championship game 6-5. Kristy Robinson hit the game-winning run in the bottom of the sixth to break the 5-5 tie making the Yardbusters the female champions of the tournament.

American Legion and Casey played six games to battle their way out of the double-elimination round. The teams were then set to meet for the championship game Monday.

American legion blew out Casey 15-7, however, as a result of Legion having lost one game in the double elimination round the teams had to play a second game.

In the second game, Casey jumped out early with a two-run home run from Brandon Sonnenburg. From there on it was a defensive game with runs scattered between innings. Casey prevailed and earned the title of the Firecracker Tournament Champions beating the defending champions, American Legion, 9-2.



Derick Battle of American Legion prepares to take off from home plate during the base-running competition during the Firecracker Softball Tournament June 29.



Kim Johnson-Olion of team Yardbusters swings during the home run derby at the skills competition June 29. Yardbusters would go on to win the women's tournament during the Firecracker Softball Tournament.